IN THE BEGINNING

President Hayes at Neosho Falls Fair 1879

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Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
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Vol. 4 - No. 13 January - 1971

Lester A. Harding - Editor

EDITOR'S NOTES –

( ) If this space is checked, your subscription expires with this issue. Please renew promptly. Send all remittances and correspondence to the Editor - 411 N. State Street, Yates Center, Kansas 66783.

With this issue we are starting the fourth year of IN THE BEGINNING. While it has taken a lot of time and effort to get it out every three months, perhaps it was worth it. Anyway we have enjoyed it or perhaps we would not go to all this work. We hope our readers enjoy it too.

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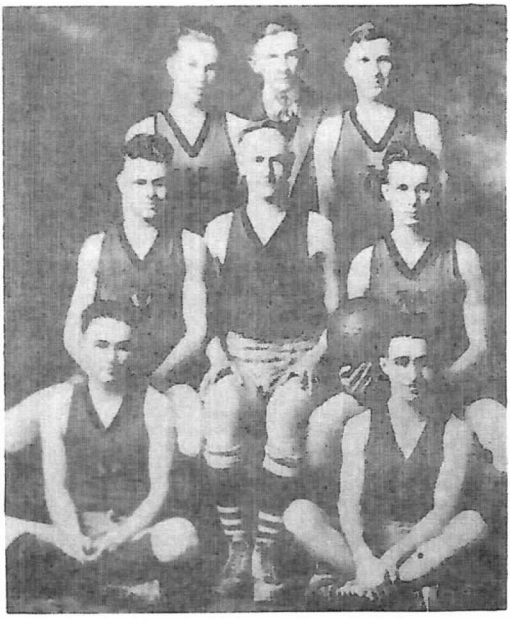

Again we have a picture of a Yates Center High School basketball team. Top row: Dean Randall, C. T. Johnson, coach, Arthur Stockebrand. Center row: Fred Stockebrand, Ira Stockebrand, Leslie Seright. Bottom row: Alfred Gordon and Donald (Bennie) Shenk.

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Organized March, 1965

January, 1971 – Time for the renewal of membership dues to the Historical Society again. Those who took out Life Membership in the Woodson County Historical Society can just coast along. However it is from the regular members who renew each year that we depend upon to help out with current expenses. Both kinds of members are needed and appreciated. They both have their useful place in the maintenance of a successful Historical Society.

Life memberships are $25.00 - regular memberships are $2.00 each calendar year.

The Woodson County Historical Society was organized with its purpose and aim to the collection and preservation of articles, tools, publications, pictures and anything of interest to the historical development of the county. This publication was started to try to collect as much of the early history of the county as possible, along with family histories and human interest stories that should be preserved for future generations.

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At the September dinner meeting of the Historical Society we had as guests Miss Donna Haen, the present Miss Woodson County Hay Queen, and her chaperon, Mrs. Betty McNett.

The Woodson County Historical Society is one of the few historical societies in the state that have regular dinner meetings, where members and non-members meet. These dinner meetings are bi-monthly—January, March, May, September and November. The July meeting is a picnic dinner at the City Reservoir. An interesting program is given at each of the dinner meetings. These meetings have been held at the Woodson Hotel, later named The Virginian.

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The sketch on front cover was evidently drawn by Prof. Worall, as it was supposedly taken from Leslie's Weekly. It shows President R. B. Hayes and wife in the carriage, the effigy on the ladder is using a hatchet to cut ears of corn off sixteen-foot high corn. The crowd is in the background and large pumpkins and ears of corn cover the ground, all this trying to boost the value of the land in that area.

* * * * *

Join and support the Woodson County Historical Society. It is a very worthwhile and needed organization for Woodson County. For 1970, there were 213 paid-up members. There are 90 with Life memberships, and 123 regular members.

The county fairs of Woodson County had their beginning back in 1872, at Neosho Falls, and was known as the Woodson County Agriculture Society. When Colonel Goss and associates layed out the town of Neosho Falls on the south and west side of the river they had plans for the land on the east side where the mill was located. They set aside a forty acre tract of land covered with fine forest trees. The park was first known as Goss's Park but was later changed to Riverside Park.

In the spring of 1874, a new fair organization was formed and was known as the Neosho Valley District Fair Association, and the first annual fair was held in the latter part of September of that year. The district was composed of the counties of Woodson, Allen, Anderson and Coffey.

In the spring of 1879, it was learned that President Rutherford B. Hayes had planned to take a tour through the West in the fall of that year. At a meeting of the fair board the secretary, R. P. Hamm, suggested the idea to the board of directors of inviting President Hayes to visit the fair at Neosho Falls during his tour.

Major Geo. Snow was chairman of the four-county committee. He started the ball rolling by writing to James Harlan, a Republican senator from Iowa. Harlan had been Secretary of the Interior under President Abraham Lincoln. In due course of time the invitation was extended and to everyone's amazement the following reply was received.

To Major Snow
President of N.V.D.F. Association

My Dear Sir:

I have the honor to accept the invitation to attend the Neosho Valley Fair on the 25th of September next. I shall leave my home on the 22nd of September and go on the most direct route to Neosho Falls.

Sincerely,
R. B. Hayes

As the 25th came on Thursday the work at the fair grounds began on Monday. Prof. Henry Worall, of Topeka, seemed to have charge of the decorating. A large archway was built over the park entrance. The archway was made up of sorghum stalks and heads of grain, corn of all colors and other grain. Many different vegetables and flowers of various shapes and colors were used to make it an artistic triumph of skill with a place for the Goddess of Liberty to stand. Sheds were full of livestock.

According to the Yates Center News, October 2, 1879, W. H. Jones, Editor, "The fair was a grand success in every particular. The entries largely exceeded those of any previous year, 710 having been made before Saturday evening preceding the opening. The display of horses and cattle was the largest and best ever made in the State; and while this was an off year in fruits, the display was very creditable—the

showing of apples being exceedingly fine. The exhibit of grain and vegetables greatly exceeded that of any other year, grain being represented by 132 lots, 96 entries of farm vegetables and 137 of garden vegetables. There were 86 entries of apples and only 9 of pears.

"There was a very respectable attendance on Tuesday, estimated at 2500, but on Wednesday the crowds began to come in by every road, and at 3 o'clock in the afternoon there were probably 6,000 people on the fairgrounds. Every available space for camping was taken up, and south of the race track there was a regular town of tents. It is estimated that fully 4,000 people camped on the fairgrounds. Wednesday night.

"Including the shows, photograph galleries, barber shops, hot candy stands, wheels of fortune, etc., there were 46 booths. Besides these there were three large dining halls. It was a town of itself. Everything was hurry and bustle, and everybody was excited, and still there was no disorder.

"Outside of the fence, near the mill, a dance was in progress, presided over by an enterprising female of not very prepossessing appearance, who had borrowed the money to carry on the enterprise of a prominent merchant of the town, leaving with him a valuable silver watch as security. Business was evidently prosperous."

Co. H, Sixteenth U. S. Infantry, Brevert-Colonel Clayton Hall in command, arrived Wednesday. They were accompanied by the Sixteenth Regiment band, consisting of twenty-seven pieces, the artillery for use on President's Day, and two napoleons also arrived from Ft. Riley.

Providence smiled on Woodson County and particularly Neosho Falls on September 25, 1879, as the big day arrived with clear skies and weather fine. Teams began to arrive before daylight and by six a.m. there were a hundred teams at the gate leading to the fairgrounds. Roads leading to Neosho Falls from all directions were packed with teams, wagons, surreys and buggies. People living near the Falls had some difficulty in getting into the line. By 10 o'clock it was estimated there were 30,000 (some estimated 40,000) people at the fairgrounds. Quite a lot of people came in on the trains that were running that day.

The palace car train, with the Presidential party and the State officers on board, arrived shortly after 10 o'clock a.m. The President and Mrs. Hayes seemed somewhat disappointed at the smallness of the crowd that met them at the depot. He remarked to the News editor: "Your town does not impress me very favorably; in fact it has the appearance of being a very small, one-horse town."

The "Katy" had come in on time with whistles blowing. A procession was formed under the direction of the grand marshal of the day. They were arranged in this manner for the mile-long march to the fairgrounds: 1. Sixteenth U. S. Infantry Band; 2. Capitol Guards, Topeka;

3. President and Mrs. Hayes and their son Birchard in carriage; 4. General Sherman and Governor John St. John and Mrs. St. John in carriage; 5. General Sherman's staff in carriage; 6. Governor St. John's staff mounted; 7. Capitol Guards Band; 8. Reception committee in carriages; 9. Zouave Cadets of Ottawa; 10. Citizens mounted and in carriages. A "carriage and pair" from Emporia with its colored coachman headed the official vehicles. Charles Diver from just south of Neosho Falls had a fine team and carriage and helped with a part of the Presidential party.

As the procession left the depot the President wanted to know where the town was, but as they crossed the river and entered the park he was amazed and inquired: "Where did all these people come from."

As the procession crossed the river and approached the archway into the park, the President doffed his hat to the Goddess of Liberty, Miss Emma Snow. "Uncle" Ept Beardon, a white-haired darkey who had at one time been a slave, crowded to the front with one of his boys. As the President approached, Uncle Eph shouted, "Three cheers for President Hayes!" The President stopped the coach and shook hands with the proud old darkey.

As the President passed through the arch a 21-gun salute was fired by Capt. Hale, commanding Co. H, Sixteenth U. S. Infantry. Cheer after cheer went up as the Presidential group arrived at the park. As the excited throng quieted down, Hon. Thomas Ryan, chairman of the reception committee introduced Hon. John R. Goodin, of Humboldt, who gave the address of welcome to the group on behalf of fair association.

Gov. St. John, on behalf of the people of Kansas, gave the welcome address to the President. President Hayes made a rather lengthy speech that was given in its entirety in that issue of the News. At the conclusion of his speech the President introduced Gen. Wm. T. Sherman, calling him the man who led our armies from Atlanta to the sea.

At the conclusion of the speeches, Hon. Geo. A. Crawford with a short speech, presented the President, on behalf of the fair association, with a remarkable chair, without its like or equal in the world, manufactured from the horns of Kansas steers. The chair of horns was upholstered with the legs, arms and back made of large steer horns. It was presented to the fair association by Warren Crandall, an early day settler and ranchman along Turkey Creek, whose ranch extended in both Coffey and Woodson counties. The chair had been made in St. Louis. (This chair is now in the Rutherford B. Hayes Library, in Fremont, Ohio. For some time it was in the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C.)

A call was made for Mrs. Hayes. Her appearance was greeted with a loud cheer as she simply bowed her acknowledgment. Hundred were trying to get on the platform to shake hands with the President. A

young fellow who was a stranger there was particularly trying to get near the President or attract his attention. He finally appealed to Senator Finney of Neosho Falls and told him what he wanted. Senator Finney elbowed his way through the crowd, taking the young man with him to the President. The stranger then told Mr. Hayes this tale: "Last week my wife gave birth to twins, her first children, a boy and a girl, and I have come 35 miles from home in order to see the President and ask him to name them." Mr. Hayes promptly replied, "Name them Rutherford and Mary!"

The party and invited guests that numbered around 100 then went to the Allen County Dining Hall, where a fine lunch, presided over by the ladies of Neosho Falls, was served.

For the afternoon, horse racing was the main attraction, including chariot races.

The press was fairly well represented as between sixty and seventy newspapers of Kansas had representatives there, besides some outside papers. Prof. Worall of Topeka also was there to draw sketches for Harpers and the Leslie Weekly magazines. The Frank Leslie Illustrated Weekly of October 18, 1879, featured this occasion, reporting that,"In the farm products there were 132 lots of grain, 233 of vegetables, including pumpkins and squashes, 43 of butter, cheese, etc., and 86 in apples, plums and peaches.

The Presidential party bade farewell to a large crowd at the long, low red-painted "Katy" depot as, with its flags flying, the train came steaming up to the station.

This was a great day, not only for the people of the Neosho Falls vicinity, but for the state of Kansas.

And now ninety-one years later, one could hardly recognize the town of Neosho Falls as the same place that attracted world attention when it entertained Rutherford B. Hayes, President of the United States.

The railroad and depot are gone, the population of the Falls and surrounding area has greatly decreased, and the beautiful park has been cut up and a part is now being used as a race track.

JOHN LIGHT –

John Light was a native of Germany, spending the first twenty years of his life near Mecklinberg. When twenty years of age he came to America, settling near Chicago. Here he worked on a farm for two years. It was here that he met the Godfrey Weide family and when the Weide's decided to come to Kansas, John Light came with them. That was in 1857. They worked and stayed to the east of LeRoy in Coffey County through that winter.

In the spring of 1858, John Light, with the Weide's, came to Turkey Creek. They each staked out claims, the claim of Light's joining on the west of the Weide's, with Turkey Creek running almost through

the center of the two claims. When Light and Weide first came there there, there were several Indian tepees pitched about midway between where the two later built their houses.

The land they claimed at that time was not open to homesteading or pre-emption, but was still a part of the New York Indian Reservation. This land was opened up for pre-emption in 1860. But for some reason neither Light or Weide recorded their land at that time. The Weide homestead was not recorded until 1869.

For John Light, the slavery question and the war between the States interrupted his homesteading. The land was not open for pre-emption until October, 1860. A year later, on October 10, 1861, John Light saddled his horse and rode to LeRoy where he enlisted in Company G, Fifth Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. He was 26 years old. Company G was organized that day, October 10, 1861, with 37 others besides Light enlisting that day. The following day, October 11, there were 24 more enlisted. After participating in several battles, mostly around Helena and Little Rock, Arkansas, he was discharged at Ft. Leavenworth at the end of 1864, after serving three years and two months.

Returning to his claim on Turkey Creek he discovered he had made a mistake in not filing at the land office for his claim, for a man named Amos A. Lawrence had filed on a half section of land, which included the Light claim. We may tell about this Lawrence later.

In 1866 Lawrence sold the southwest quarter of section 12-24-14 to John Light for $1.50 an acre. The quarter section to the south of this he sold to Bonham Fox who built a log cabin not far from Light's.

When he first returned from the war Mr. Light did some freighting from LeRoy to Westport, now a part of Kansas City. The freighting was done with oxen. His own supplies and some for his neighbors were hauled in this manner from Westport. These trips to Westport would take about two weeks a round trip. Horses would make the trip quicker than the oxen, but were not as dependable as oxen.

Soon after returning to his claim a log cabin was built with the help of neighbors, as the logs were cut and "snaked" from along Turkey Creek to the homesite. David Askren, who had an "eye" for level, supervised the erecting of the cabin. Mr. Light lived the life of a bachelor until October, 1870, when he was married to Mrs. Minnie Miller Beanway, a widow with three children, Caroline, Anna and Ernest Beanway. It was from Ernest Beanway, who came here as a small boy, that we learned much of the history of the early settlers along Turkey Creek and the log schoolhouse at District No. 2.

Four children were born to John and Minnie Light, Edward F. Light, Bertha, Robert and Willie Light. Robert died as a very small boy. Minnie Light died shortly after the birth of her youngest son Willie, leaving her husband with six small children. Seven years later, 1884, John Light was married to Mrs. Elizabeth Klingenburg whose hus-

band John Klingenburg was fatally injured in an accident north of Nikkletown.

Mrs. Klingenburg had three sons, Edward, John and Gus.

John and Elizabeth Light had two sons, namely, Amil H. and Fred L. Light. Amil still lives on the old homestead.

Ernest Beanway was married to Louise Fulhage. They had two sons, Richard and Walter Beanway.

Anna Beanway was married to Ernest Stockebrand. Their children were Edward, Louis E., Mary, who died as a small child, Elmer and Ruth (Mrs. Fred Bauersfeld).

Caroline Beanway was married to Mr. Freeman.

Ed Light was married to Justine Light. Their children are Elmer E. and Enoch Light, Bernice (Mrs. A. C. Rienking), and Katherine (Mrs. Louie Rogers).

Bertha Light married John Burleson. They lived in Oklahoma.

Willie Light was only two weeks old when his mother died. He was raised by the Guenther Bauersfeld family and later went to the state of Washington. There he married a Singleton.

Amil Light married Irma Mulsow. Their children were Mildred (Mrs. A. W. Bus Opperman), Hilda L. Light, and Virginia (Mrs. Earl Louderbaugh).

Fred L. Light was married to Lillian Neufeld. Their children were Velma, Freda, and Ralph Light.

Edward Klingenburg was married to Gertrude Suppe. Their children were Lawrence, Bessie, who married Allen Christy, Gertrude (Mrs. Earl Herman). Five children died as infants.

John Klingenburg was married to Charlotte Askren. Their children were David, Wilbur, Fred, Audrey and Ruth.

Gus Klingenburg was married to Laura Miller. They had two sons, Wesley and Walter, the latter died by accident as a boy.

The John Light homestead was one of the few farms in the county that remained in the same family and under the same name for over 100 years.

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In later years Ed Light and Ernest Beanway operated a lumber yard in Yates Center for many years. Then Light went into the hardware business with Charles Opperman, and Beanway continued to operate the lumber yard.

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The Klingenburgs mentioned were a part of the German-Russian colony that settled the Nikkeltown area. We will tell about these people who came here from Russia in a later issue.

In the picture are John Light, his wife Elizabeth, and sons, Amil H., back, and Fred L., seated. The picture was taken by Isaac Askren, "Traveling photo artist."

HOGUELAND –

A man who in his long span of life in Woodson County was one of the best known and liked of any man was Wm. E. (Billie) Hogueland. Although forced to use crutches his entire life he was ever active until a short time before his death. Many people made their way to his office in the stone building just off the square.

W. E. Hogueland was born at Nashville, Indiana, October 3, 1859. His father was William B. Hogueland, whose ancestors came from Holland. William B. Hogueland was born in Philadelphia and was married to Cordelia Barnes, of Belmont Co., Ohio. Other children in this family were Samuel H., Mary, who married W. A. Atchinson, an early day lawyer at Neosho Falls, Flora who married M. C. Bidwell, and William Edward.

When only a year old Billie Hogueland contacted polio and was never able to walk except with crutches the rest of his life. In 1869, the Hogueland family left Indiana in a covered wagon headed for Kansas. At St. Louis they crossed the Mississippi River on a ferry and likewise the Missouri River at Booneville on a ferry. At the latter place the wagon had to stop for awhile before getting on the ferry. Billie, the ten-year-old boy, had a dog as his companion. When about halfway across the river the boy missed his dog. Looking back to the shore just left the dog could be seen. Looking at the face of the little boy, the ferry operator stopped and reversed the ferry and went back after the dog.

The Hogueland family arrived at Neosho Falls late in the spring of 1869. Here W. E. or Billie Hogueland finished his education. When only sixteen years of age he began reading law and three years later when he was nineteen years old he was admitted to the bar before Judge Talcott at Neosho Falls.

When President Rutherford Hayes visited the fair at Neosho Falls in 1879, there were scores of booths selling food and refreshments on the fairgrounds. W. E. Hogueland, then twenty years of age, operated one of these booths.

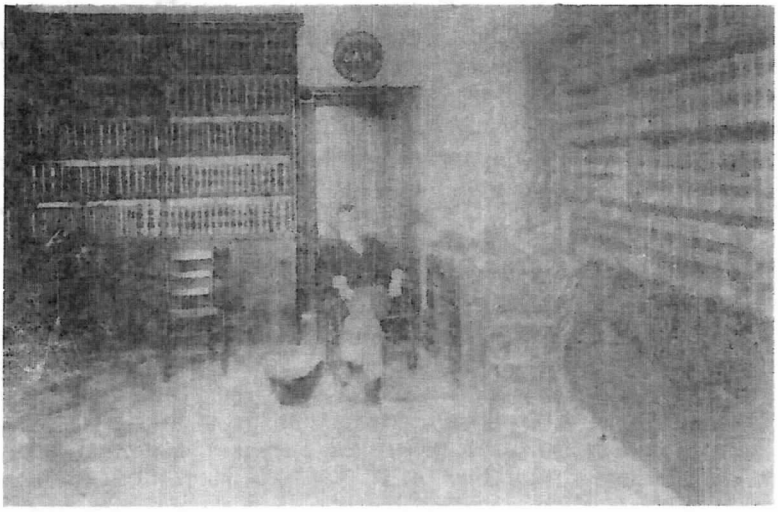
On July 22, 1887, Mr. Hogueland was married to Miss Mattie R. Foster, of Slater, Mo. Two children were born to them, Frank F. and Alice B. (Mrs. Errett Lamb).

In January 1888, Mr. Hogueland formed a law partnership with G. R. Stephenson at Yates Center. This partnership was dissolved and Hogueland entered into a partnership with G. H. Lamb.

When only twenty-one years of age, W. E. Hogueland was elected clerk of the district court of Woodson County, in the year 1880, and served in that office for eight years. In May, 1897, he was appointed postmaster of Yates Center and served in that capacity until March, 1914.

The law firm of Lamb & Hogueland remained together until the death of Mr. Lamb in 1936.

Mr. Hogueland maintained his law practice for several years alone. He passed away about noon on his 90th birthday. He was a man of much perseverance as proven by the public record he had.



W. E. Hogueland in his law office in Yates Center. A very familiar scene for hundreds of people of the county over a period of many years.

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Samuel H. Hogueland, the older brother of Wm. E. was also a very familiar figure of Woodson County for many years. Shortly after arriving in Neosho Falls in 1869, Samuel learned the harness-making profession from George Fender of Neosho Falls. He followed this profession for around fifteen years. Meanwhile he moved to Yates Center. Here he entered into the real estate business which he continued for many years. During this time he was also the immigration agent for the Missouri Pacific Railway and the Chicago & Alton Railway. In this capacity he was instrumental in bringing many people to Woodson County.

Samuel was married in April, 1875, to Miss Frances Biddison at Neosho Falls. Their two children were Ernest H. and Cora (Mrs. John Gunnels).

During the height of his real estate business Mr. Hogueland published the Sunflower Sentinel, a small monthly paper that greatly boosted Kansas and especially Woodson County.

He was one of the leading men of Yates Center in the development of gas fields in this locality around 1900.

School District No. 2 –

Although some of the older children from the area on upper Turkey Creek attended the District No. 1 school, the need arose for a school in that area along the upper part of the creek.

In the spring of 1865, Wm. B. Stines and Ben Miller, with perhaps the aid of other nearby settlers, erected a log building that was the first No. 2 schoolhouse. It was built on land belonging to Ben Miller and just across the line west of the John Light homestead. There were no roads, just wagon trails. It was built about 200 yards from Turkey Creek and very close to where the LeRoy-Eureka wagon trail crossed the ford on the creek.

This log schoolhouse was about 25 x 20 feet with a door on the east end. The room was lighted by two windows on each side. The seats were benches made from rough native slabs, without backs or desks. The pupils held what books they had on their laps as they studied.

The room was heated by a small square cornered stove about a foot wide and a foot and a half long. The chimney was made of brick. Over a hundred years later some of these bricks were uncovered. They were small and evidently handmade.

The first teacher of this school was Miss Sarah Hawkins. She later became Mrs. Charles Graves. W. B. Stines was the second teacher of the log school in 1865. Mr. Stines was also county superintendent at that time. Up until then the schools were numbered by townships. Under a new ruling Mr. Stines re-numbered the schools of the county. His home school he gave No. 2. In 1867 the boundary lines for District No. 2 included 86 sections of land or 55,040 acres. In 1935 it covered seven sections.

The first school board was composed of three women, Mrs. Charlotte Askren, clerk; Mrs. Louisa Stines, treasurer; Mrs. Jane Graves, director. The address of all three was given as Liberty, Kansas. The Liberty post office was about three miles on down Turkey Creek in a log cabin of Omar Whitney. In 1870 the school board was Ed Morgan, David Askren and Joseph Miller.

Like other schools in Kansas at that time, the school was known as a "Subscription" school. The parents of each pupil having to subscribe so much for each pupil enrolled. There were about 12 or 14 children of school age along this part of Turkey Creek at that time, but only 8 or 10 were enrolled at the school for the first term. The youngest children of the Joseph Millers were unable to go because of the cost, the older ones getting the first privilege. This subscription price went toward the teachers salary. It was known as a subscription school until 1868, when U. S. Grant became president of the United States.

At the time this school was organized the district was 11 miles by 14, with only three farms in the district paying taxes. These were the farms of Joseph Miller, Benjamin Miller and Wm. B. Stines.

The patents to these farms were signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1861. Other nearby settlers evidently had not recorded their land.

Other teachers accounted for during the life of the log school were a Miss Roanie, Mr. Hubbard and Ben Stines. The earliest record concerning the No. 2 school was a Teachers Daily Record dated May 8, 1871, to November 11, 1874. This record book took in the last year and a half of the log school and the first two years of the "new" school. The spring term of 1871 was taught by E. V. Wharton, who five years later was the first doctor to hang out his M.D. shingle in the new town of Yates Center. There were 18 scholars enrolled and Wharton drew a salary of $40 a month.

During the term from January 15 to April 15, 1872, there were 27 pupils enrolled, almost filling the log building. The teacher was Walter E. Brewer, who drew a salary of $40 a month. Brewer lived in the Pleasant View vicinity and was later postmaster at Coloma. The pupils during this term were Clara Hanna, Fannie Hanna, Nettie Hanna, Alice Miller, Christina Miller, Eliza Miller, Mary Miller, Lona Miller, Elva Miller, Libbie Askren, Margaret Askren, Hannah Raber, Lavilla Smith, Caroline Light, Anna Light, Ernest Light (these latter three were listed as Beanway in the term before this), Frank Miller, Henry Miller, Asa Miller, Wm. Askren, Horave Johnson, Elles Smith and Charley Miller. There were ten Millers going this term, nine of them being children of Joseph Miller. There seemed to be no grades or graduates. They simply went until they learned all the books or quit.

One method Brewer had for punishment for misbehavior was to make the pupils sit on an old iron teakettle in the corner of the room. Wm. M. Weide told of sitting on the old teakettle another term for pulling the hair of Elva Miller who occupied the bench in front of him. But before he could "occupy" the kettle the teacher had to give Willie Askren permission to leave it.

Henry Miller once told the writer of sitting in his seat and watching a large blacksnake crawl along the rafters just inside the log schoolhouse.

In 1872 a plot of two acres was given to the Askren School District No. 2 by John Light, and on this the new frame schoolhouse was built. The builder was H. T. Chellis who at that time lived about six miles north of the present Yates Center. This schoolhouse was built about three years before Yates Center was mapped out as a town.

The first term of school was held in the new school on October 21, 1872, with 24 pupils enrolled. The teacher was Ed B. Dennison.

The school term of 1896-97 will give the names of most of the scholars who attended the Askren school during the '90's. Myrtle Dobert (Mrs. August Fulhage) was the teacher. The pupils enrolled were Wilbur Naylor, Amil Light, Fred Light, Charlie, Martha, Emil, Emma, and Lillie Weide; Clara Morgan, Myrtle Morgan, Mary, Clara, Louis and Juanita Weide; Henry, Will, Fred, Mary and Anna Holm-

quest; John, Dovie and Clara Williams; Almeda Stines, Everett Miller, Mabel Miller, Myrtle Oliver, John Hornbeck, Phronie Wright, and a little negro girl, Gertie Carr. The following term her brother Dimmic Carr attended the school.

Teacher and pupils at Dist. No. 2–1914-15

Back row: The teacher, Cecile Davidson, Elizabeth Fitch Harding, Gussia Holmquest Schindler, Walter Holmquest, Mae Harding Weide, Esther Weide. The three boys in the center row are John Dassow, Elmer Miller, and Gould Fitch. Front row: Wilbur Weide, Ray Weide, Lester Harding, Emma Benkenstein, Lila Weide and Margaret "Tena" Miller Underwood.

The school board this term was R. T. Dawson, Clerk; F. W. Weide, Treasurer; G. W. Williams, Director.

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ABNER YATES –

Sometimes referred to as the father of Yates Center, and also as founder of the county seat here, Abner Yates did not live in the town that he founded until the town was about eight years old.

Abner Yates was born in Gallatin County, Kentucky, August 4, 1819. His father, Henry Yates, had immigrated there from Virginia. Henry Yates had laid out the town of Warsaw, in Gallatin County, and had been a merchant there until moving to Springfield, Illinois. There he founded the town of Berlin, in Sangamon County, Illinois. Here also he carried on a general mercantile business.

Abner Yates grew up in his parents home and worked in his father's store. In 1851 he moved to Jacksonville, Illinois. In Jacksonville, on August 7, 1851, Abner Yates was married to Mary Geers.

Besides his mercantile business Mr. Yates began to invest in land in Kansas. Among this land was the southwest quarter of section 2 and the northwest quarter of section 14, township 25, range 15, which was purchased in 1867. The southwest corner of section 2 and the northwest corner of section 14 were the exact center of the county.

During the 1870's when Woodson County was in a turmoil in getting a permanent county seat, some of the leaders of the county thought that the geographic center of the county would be the logical spot. Messages were sent to Abner Yates telling him of the prospects of the place becoming the county seat. Mr. Yates soon arrived and found that the promoters were in earnest. Mr. Yates entered into the planning of a town on the hill.

In the election for county seat of August 18, 1875, the Center received the most votes, but for some reason the county records were not moved here from Defiance until another election, September 12, 1876, had passed. However on the 16th day of August, 1875, Abner Yates dedicated the townsite in the presence of Peter Bell, a Notary Public, and Frank Butler, one of the promoters. The plot of the townsite was not recorded until two days after the first election mentioned.

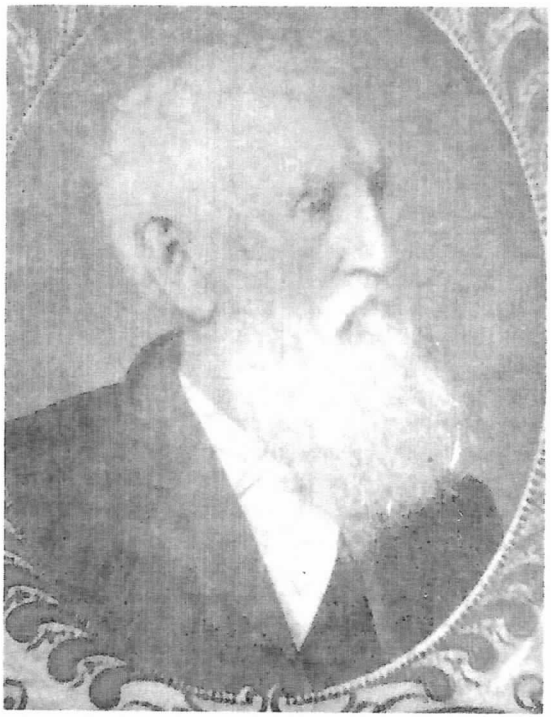
The townsite, surveyed and plotted by D. M. Ray, the county surveyor, was the southwest quarter of section 2, and the north part of the northwest quarter of section 14. Mr. Yates was here at the time and helped move the first building onto the townsite from Kalida. He then returned to Jacksonville, Illinois, where he continued to make his home until he moved to his town of Yates Center in 1883. Yates Center was more or less considered Mr. Yates' town until it was incorporated in March, 1884.

Mr. and Mrs. Yates made this their home from then until their death. Mr. Yates had cast his first vote for the presidency of the United States in 1840, when he supported William Henry Harrison.

Abner and Mary Yates were the parents of two children, Mary M., who became the wife of John B. Dobyns, and William H. Yates.

In three states the name of Yates is recorded in history as that of the founder of a town. The thriving town of Yates Center, which owes its origin and much of its later advancement to Abner Yates, as he gave several lots to different causes for the advancement of the town, including the courthouse square, a block for Lincoln Park, a lot for the child born, and for any denomination to build a church. Mary Street, now US 54, was named for Mary Yates.

Mr. and Mrs. Yates are buried in the Yates Center Cemetery. During the week of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of Yates Center in 1925, the citizens of Yates Center erected a memorial over the graves of Abner and Mary Yates. This was to do honor to the father of the town and to perpetuate his memory. The memorial is a five-foot granite monument.



Abner Yates

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THE UPPER DRY CREEK VALLEY OF NORTH TOWNSHIP –

In the southwest corner of North township is a maize of hills, ravines and rocky gullies that constitute the Dry Creek Valley. Dry Creek in general is in Toronto township, but the headwaters of the creek are all in North, with which this article deals with. As you enter North township, coming up the creek from the south, several deep cut valleys and ravines branch off from the main creek, making this a very rough country.

The part of Dry Creek Valley concerning this article covers roughly around 3,000 acres. Most of the ravines and part of the hills are covered with blackjack oak and other timber and brush. The larger ravines have been named locally. The first of these branches running to the northeast from the main creek was named Sandbank Gully, receiving its name from the sandbed that was discovered along this branch. This sandbed was only about a foot under the surface and in some places seven or eight feet deep of clear sand. Settlers from along the creek and surrounding country came here for sand to use in making foundations for their houses and for other mortar purposes.

On the western edge of the valley is a narrow, deep-cut rocky ravine called Cave Hollow, where the cave is located. Another valley larger and longer than the rest runs northwest from the main creek and is known as Coyote Canyon. This valley seems to be a favorite place for coyotes to den in and it is generally in this valley that coyotes usually lose the hounds in a chase. One branch of Coyote Canyon has been called Buzzards Roost, because of the buzzards nesting there.

Before oil was discovered in the valley, the hills around Dry Creek was considered the "jumping off" place to the people to the east. It was a great hunting and trapping area. It was also known to men on the opposite side of the law who would make their way to these hills when in trouble.

It was to this area that hundreds of cattle and sheep were brought to in the 1880's as it was mostly all free range at that time. Farmers several miles to the east of here would make an all-day trip with team and a wagon or two, cut and haul trees for their winter's fuel. The timber seemed to be there for anyone to get.

To local cattlemen this was known as the "brush pasture" in which they sometimes had difficulty in rounding up strays.

So many stories and tales were told about this area that it is difficult to separate fact from fiction.

Indian Camp –

Along the main creek on a level heavy timbered location in what is now the south part of North township was a main winter camp of the Sauk and Pottawatomie Indian tribes. The reservations of these tribes was in northeast Kansas, also having tracts of land in the Indian Territory.

Here in this sheltered valley surrounded by large timber and blackjack covered hills these Indians would spend their winters. Wild turkey, deer and other wild game were plentiful along the valley. It was told that during bad snow storms when the Indian ponies could not find much grass and forage in the valley, the Indians would cut and break down elm trees and branches so that the ponies could eat the buds and tender branches.

These Indians used this camp and the trail through these hills long after the surrounding country was settled. And according to artifacts found around the cave we will tell about, no doubt this camp was used long before the coming of the white man.

Frank Smith, who told the writer several years ago that as a boy he used to visit this Indian camp, watched the Indians go through their tribal dances. Robert Daly also told of visiting this camp on different occasions.

Stone Hut –

Soon after Robert Daly came to this area he found that he was not the first white inhabitant of this valley, for on the south slope of a steep hill where one of these valleys branches east from the main valley, was a stone hut built on the side of the hill. It was about ten feet square with a door in the southeast corner. There were windows in this hut, but on all four sides were loopholes just large enough to stick a gun barrel through. Just when this hut was built, by whom or why, Daly was never able to learn even from the Indians whose winter camp was a short distance to the north.

It may have been the abode of some early day hunter or trapper who built it in this manner as a protection against the Indians, but the opinion was that it was built and used as a hideout for some gang of outlaws who traveled through here. From the size of the rocks no one man could hardly have built it. In later years settlers hauled some of these rocks away, but the lower rocks still show the outline of the hut and the location of the door.

As mentioned before, this valley was known to men who were dodging the law. Two different older persons told the writer that they remembered seeing the name of Jesse James carved on a rock at the Dry Creek Cave.

Other Tales of the Dry Creek Valley –

Somewhere in Coyote Canyon, a group of cattlemen and cowboys got together in what started out to be a friendly game of chance. Some of the men were veteran gamblers. Some Indians loved to gamble also. There was an Indian who happened to enter into this particular game.

No name was given to us about who this group was, but in the course of the gambling an argument was started between the Indian and one of the white men. The white man shot and killed the Indian, who was buried nearby, evidently by the gamblers. The story goes that

in later years some men or boys who lived to the north of this area knew where the grave was located, came and dug up the remains and took it to a museum.

A Marriage Along Upper Dry Creek.—

Henry P. Miller, who was born and raised along upper Turkey Creek, and Addie Park of the Pleasant View neighborhood, were married by "Suire" Robert Daly who was a justice of the peace. Squire Daly and a hired man had gone north of the Daly home to cut wood.

The couple had come to the Daly home in a two-wheel, one-horse cart and wanted to be married. Jeff Daly, then a small boy, told them where his father and hired man were. The young couple, with their newly-acquired marriage license, found Mr. Daly and were married with the hired man as a witness.

A $1,000 Reward Notice –

(This story was told to the writer several years ago by a man who had lived in the Dry Creek Valley for several years. However the story was discounted by others, but we will write it as told to us.)

A $1,000 reward notice was posted in the post office at Quincy for Frank Gillette, who headquartered in the "Badlands" on upper Dry Creek. He had been one of the first men to bring cattle into these hills to graze.

One day he rode into Quincy and was recognized. He then started for the hills and valleys of upper Dry Creek, riding his horse very hard. As he rode up the valley and just to the east of the stone Dry Creek schoolhouse, one of the Gharrity's was plowing in a nearby field. Gillette's horse was about winded so he made Gharrity change horses with him and rode on to a hideout known as Horse Thief Cave where he stayed for several weeks. Just where Horse Thief Cave was we never learned, only that it had an inverted V entrance and was kept covered with brush. The tale was also told that his mother would come to the area with horse and buggy once a week, bringing him food. From another source we were told that Gillette was not that kind of a man, and that his mother was not always responsible for her actions and would drive into the hills with her horse and buggy and wander around as if lost.

Frank Gillette and a man named Nixon brought about the first herd of cattle into this area. That was in 1886. They brought the herd from Missouri where they lived. He was described by those who knew him as a typical cowboy. He with his brother Bud Gillette, who was known as a foot racer, spent several years herding cattle in the Dry Creek watershed. Frank Gillette was a tall, well-built man and a very good rider and roper. He rode a large saddle with long, white saddle pocket flaps, and carried an ivory-handled 45 six-shooter. The story is told that he roped 120 calves without a single miss. Their headquarters were about three miles west of the present Kimbell Ranch, or a mile north

of the Daly farm.

Another rider who was with Gillette a part of the time with the cattle herds was Ted Broadhead. He was considered more or less a shady character. Broadhead was a short, heavy-set fellow, with gold teeth in front and was part Indian. He did not talk much to the other riders. He rode a nice brown mare that was a good cow horse but mean to buck and hard to catch, so he kept her hobbled most of the time. The tale is told that he had some trouble with another good horse about the time that some other riders went by the Gillette camp where he stayed. When they came back by that evening the horse was dead. Broadhead said he didn't know what was the matter with it, but later it was found out that he had shot it.

Another cowhand, Ed Dent, who herded cattle over this range for several years came here first in 1889. He came from near Butler, Mo. He had a herd of eleven hundred head of cattle that first year. That fall he rounded up his herd to drive them back to Missouri. The night before he was to leave, someone stampeded the herd, scattering the cattle and running off the saddle horses.

Dent's cattle camp was southwest of the present Kimbell Ranch—about where the Rhea Ranch was located. Dent walked to the Van Horn Ranch, almost five miles to the north where the Sages lived to borrow horses for himself and to get help. It took several days to again round up the cattle and horses, and had to rest the cattle several days before starting them for Missouri.

Crew of Cowboys in Woodson County, 1884

The above picture of cowboys was used in a publication put out by the Kansas State Historical Society about 1961, during the Kansas Centennial. They were supposed to be cowboys of Woodson County, 1884. However they were unable to give us any information concerning the picture.

PATRONS OF THE WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John V. Glades Agency
Woodson County Co-op
State Exchange Bank
Street Abstract Co.
Schornick Oil Co.
Self Service Grocery
Krueger's Variety & Dry Goods
Leo W. Mills
Hi-Way Food Basket
Farmers Co-op, Piqua
Gaulding Oil Co.
Harry O. Ashley
Swope & Son Impl. Co.
H. R. Campbell & Sons
Furniture & Undertaking
Clyde Hill
Whelan Lumber Co.
Cantrell Buick-Pontiac
Paul C. Laidlaw
Krueger Cleaners
Gambles—Friendly Store
Rogers Bros. Garage
Mahon Motor Co.
Charles H. Carpenter
Newtex Manufacturing Co.
Yates Center Skelgas Service
J. C. Schnell
Wood-Perkins Dept. Store
Al's Jewelry
First National Bank—Toronto
Security Oil Co.
Blackjack Cattle Co.
Yates Center Elevator Co.
Jasper's Shopping Spot
Bill Taylor—Gen. Agent
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Daly Western Supply
Pyeatte-Jaynes Ins. Agency
Atkin Clinic
Dyer Chevrolet Co.
Henry E. Stephenson
Linde Barber Shop
House of Fabrics
Light Hardware
Campbell Plumbing & Electric
Brown's Western Auto
Donald E. Ward
Wilma Mark
Milton Wrampe
E. E. Light
Yates Center News
Everybody's Grocery
Pringle Ranch—J.W. & J. Richard
The Virginian Hotel
Baker Rexall Drug Store
Smith Furniture & Funeral Home